

materials in H. Doc. 105-316 in Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF).

Public acclaim for GPO's role in producing the Starr Report materials was widespread in the print and broadcast media. Every major broadcast organization covered the releases of the report and supplementary materials, and major articles appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Baltimore Sun*, the *Hartford Courant*, and throughout the printing industry press.

GPO Attacks The Y2K Computer Glitch

GPO is a service organization whose main product is information. As an information provider, GPO relies on the use of information technology to accomplish its mission. The Year 2000 (Y2K) problem is real and the impact on GPO and its customers could be catastrophic without a major program initiative to combat its potential effects. GPO is following a program to ensure that mission-critical systems supporting its key mission requirements will be Y2K compliant.

In March 1998, the Public Printer issued a *GPO Year 2000 Program Guide*, formally establishing a Year 2000 Program Management Office to oversee GPO's Y2K initiatives and provide timely progress reports on the subject to internal and external parties, including the General Accounting Office (GAO). The Program Management Office coordinates cross-departmental activity and formulates recommended policy. The Program Guide encompasses five critical phases to

ensure Y2K compliance: awareness, assessment, renovation, validation, and implementation.

A complete review of GPO's mission-critical systems was conducted during FY 1998. All of GPO's mission-critical systems were identified and evaluation plans were developed.

GPO provided its Y2K Compliance Program Action Plan to the Joint Committee on Printing in July 1998. As part of the reporting requirements to the GAO, GPO estimated that \$25 million would be required to make its information technology environment fully Y2K compliant. Most of these resources relate to in-house labor costs and previously-budgeted replacements. GPO has been in constant communication with GAO, furnishing the appropriate status information that is provided to Congress. All GPO mission-critical systems will be Y2K compliant by the end of 1999.

Expanding Electronic Dissemination To Depository Libraries

The programs administered by the Superintendent of Documents, particularly the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), demonstrate the U.S. Government's commitment to keeping the public informed of the operations of the Government and of the information collected, created, or compiled by the Government. Federal depository libraries select and receive Government information products in various media and make the information available to the public at no charge.

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On September 30, 1998, there were 1,360 libraries in the FDLP. Of that number, 50 percent were four-year academic institutions, 20 percent were public libraries, and 11 percent were accredited law school libraries. The remaining depositories were in 2-year community colleges, Federal agencies, State libraries, State courts, special libraries, Federal courts, and military service academies. These libraries serve all segments of the Nation's population: students, researchers, consumers, and those in the business sector with everything from agriculture pamphlets and scientific reports to demographic statistics or health information.

GPO strongly supports the increased dissemination of Government information in electronic formats in conjunction with Federal agency transitions to CD-ROM or online database technology. *GPO Access* is one of the leading Federal sites on the Internet today. In addition, GPO has created a variety of electronic locator services that let users identify and connect to agency electronic resources. About 34 percent of all titles disseminated to depository libraries in FY 1998 were in electronic format.

The dissemination of Government information to libraries for the public's use began in 1813, making the FDLP America's oldest "freedom of information" program. From its beginning, the FDLP has been built on several underlying principles:

- A well-informed citizenry, cognizant of the policies and

activities of its representative Government, is essential to the proper functioning of democracy;

- The public has a right to Government information which has been prepared and published at public expense;
- The Government has an obligation to ensure the availability of, and access to, public information at no cost to the user;
- The publications provided through the FDLP are a permanent and official source of Government information; and
- The public, participating libraries, and the Government all benefit from the efficiencies afforded by a centralized distribution system, such as the FDLP, which ensures the wide availability of Government information products at no charge to users.

To manage the burgeoning number of Federal electronic products, in 1998 GPO issued a plan called *Managing the FDLP Electronic Collection: A Policy and Planning Document*. This plan establishes a framework for GPO to manage electronic Government information products throughout their life cycle from creation and bibliographic identification, to both current and permanent public access. Under this plan, the FDLP print and electronic products collections will be comprised of those Government information products that are currently included in the

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FDLP as defined in Title 44,
U.S.C., section 1902.

The FDLP Electronic Collection will consist of: (1) core legislative and regulatory *GPO Access* products that will reside permanently on GPO servers; (2) other remotely accessible products either maintained by GPO or other institutions with which GPO has established formal agreements; (3) the tangible electronic Government information products distributed to Federal depository libraries; and (4) remotely accessible electronic Government information products which GPO identifies, describes, and links to, but which remain under the control of the originating agencies.

In planning for an electronic future, GPO is being guided by the assumption that partners, such as libraries, Government agencies, non-profits, and consortia, will share the tasks of building, storing, disseminating, and preserving the collection of FDLP electronic resources. Several partnerships have been forged in recent years that will help ensure permanent online accessibility for electronic Government information products. Portions of the collection, other than the core legislative and regulatory *GPO Access* products, may be maintained at partner institutions, including other Federal agencies, depository libraries, consortia, or other institutions, such as the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC).

Significant progress has been made with other Government information disseminators to expand the range of content available at no cost to depository libraries and the

public. In 1998, GPO entered into partnership agreements with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) that will allow libraries to search and obtain vast amounts of U.S. Government scientific and technical information in electronic image format via the Internet. The DOE project alone will provide electronic versions of some 15,000 reports each year which were previously available to depository libraries only in microfiche. The NTIS project is a pilot that has enormous potential to expand the public availability of Government information, scientific and technical, using electronic technologies.

GPO, in conjunction with the U.S. State Department and the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), will also build on UIC's current agreement with the State Department to manage the Department of State Foreign Affairs Network (DOSFAN). DOSFAN is a collection of World Wide Web pages featuring current State Department news and information. As an FDLP partner, UIC will hold for permanent access electronic information products that migrate off DOSFAN. The ultimate responsibility for provision of permanent access to and bibliographic control of the electronic products will reside within GPO, however, as the administrator of the FDLP.

GPO and the University of North Texas (UNT) libraries formed a partnership to provide permanent online access to electronic publications of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

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(ACIR), an independent agency that studied the relationship among local, State, and national levels of government. The Commission was terminated in 1996. The GPO/UNT partnership will assure ongoing access to ACIR reports and documents. GPO acted as agent for this agreement, matching the need for permanent access to the agency information with the willingness of UNT to enter into a partnership agreement.

In an action to further expand online access to Government information, GPO set a pilot project with OCLC and the National Library of Education to make Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) research documents available to depository libraries. The project makes the full text of these documents available only from workstations at depository libraries that currently subscribe to ERIC Research Reports on microfilm.

These types of partnership arrangements, along with other new initiatives, will be a significant part of the new GPO in the next millennium. GPO will continue its quest to expand the availability of free Government information to the American citizenry and fulfill the words of Thomas Jefferson, who said, “it is the responsibility of every American to be informed.”

Congressional Hearings On GPO In 1998

The House Subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations and the Senate Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations

held their annual hearings on GPO’s funding request for FY 1999, in February and March 1998, respectively. GPO requested approximately \$110 million for its two appropriation accounts. One finances the printing and binding requirements of the Congress, while the other covers the costs of various programs administered by the Superintendent of Documents.

The Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation is critical to the maintenance and operation of GPO’s in-plant capacity, which is structured to serve Congress’ information product needs. The appropriation covers the costs of congressional printing such as the *Congressional Record*, bills, reports, hearings, documents, and other products. Each year, a substantial volume of this work is requisitioned. In FY 1998, more than 1.3 billion copy pages of congressional products were produced at an average cost of about 5 cents per page, inclusive of all prepress work, printing, binding, and delivery. This appropriation also covers database preparation work on congressional publications disseminated online via *GPO Access*.

The majority of the Superintendent of Documents Salaries and Expenses Appropriation is for the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). While some of the funding for this program is for salaries and benefits, most is for printing and distributing publications (including publications in CD-ROM and online formats) to depository libraries. This appropriation also provides the majority of funding for the operation of *GPO Access*.